

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims

1) (Canceled)

2) (Currently Amended) A patterned porous filtration structure comprising one or more layers of a porous membrane, each layer comprising one or more areas of porous material and one or more areas of non-porous material and wherein the non-porous areas comprise collapsed and fused material of said one or more porous membrane layers.

3) (Previously presented) The patterned structure of claim 2 wherein the one or more areas of porous material are more than one in number and are arranged in a manner so as to be separate and distinct from each other and separated from each other by the non-porous material.

Claims 4-8 (Canceled)

9) (Original) The patterned structure of claim 2 wherein the porous structure is formed of two or more layers.

10) (Canceled)

11) (Previously presented) The patterned structure of claim 2 wherein the porous structure is formed of two or more layers and each of the layers have one or more areas of porous material and one or more areas of non-porous material.

12) (Previously presented) The patterned structure of claim 2 wherein the porous structure is formed of two or more layers and less than all of the layers have one or more areas of porous material and one or more areas of non-porous material formed therein and in register with each other.

13) (Currently Amended) A patterned porous structure comprising one or more layers of a porous membrane having one or more areas of porous material and one or more areas of non-porous material wherein the porous structure is formed of two or more layers and each of the layers have one or more areas of porous material, [and] one or more areas of non-porous material formed therein and the areas of porous and non-porous material vary from layer to layer and wherein the non-porous material is formed of

the porous material by a process comprising the steps of applying an energy selected from the group consisting of heat, pressure, softening and combinations thereof to the areas of the porous material in which the non-porous areas are desired in order to cause the porous structure in the area to collapse and become fused into a non-porous material.

14) (Previously presented) The patterned structure of claim 2 wherein the porous structure is formed of two or more layers and at least one of the one or more layers have one or more areas of porous material and one or more areas of non-porous material formed therein.

15) (Previously presented) The patterned structure of claim 2 wherein the porous structure is formed of two or more layers, at least one of the layers has one or more areas of porous material and one or more areas of non-porous material formed therein and wherein the two or more layers are selected from the group consisting of porous membranes, porous support materials and blends thereof.

16) (Previously presented) The patterned structure of claim 2 wherein the porous structure is formed of two or more layers, at least one of the layers has one or more areas of porous material and one or more areas of non-porous material formed therein and wherein at least one layer is a porous membrane and the remaining layer(s) are selected from the group consisting of porous membranes, porous support materials, or non-porous materials and blends thereof.

17) (Previously presented) The patterned structure of claim 2 wherein the porous structure is formed of two or more layers and each of the layers having formed therein one area of porous material surrounded by one area of non-porous material along an outer periphery of the porous material.

18) (Previously presented) The patterned structure of claim 2 wherein the porous structure is formed of two or more layers, each of the layers having formed therein one area of porous material surrounded by one area of non-porous material along an outer periphery of the porous material and the porous material being in a shape selected from the group consisting of circles, ovals, triangles, rectangles, squares and polygons.

19) (Previously presented) The patterned structure of claim 2 wherein the porous structure is formed of two or more layers of porous membranes and each of the layers having formed therein one area of porous material surrounded by one area of non-porous material along an outer periphery of the porous material.

20) (Previously presented) The patterned structure of claim 2 wherein the porous structure is formed of two or more layers of porous membranes, each of the layers having formed therein one area of porous material surrounded by one area of non-porous material along an outer periphery of the porous material and the porous membranes are formed of a materials selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, polyolefin copolymers and terpolymers, PTFE resin, thermoplastic perfluoropolymers, polyamides, polyimides, PVDF, polyethersulphones, polysulphones, polyarylsulphones, PVC, PET, polycarbonates, cellulose, cellulose esters, cellulose acetate, cellulose nitrate, polystyrenes, polyetherimides, acrylic polymers, methacrylic polymers, copolymers of acrylic or methacrylic polymers, epoxies, epoxy filled materials, polyurethanes and blends of any of the above.

21) (Previously Presented) The patterned structure of claim 2 wherein the porous membrane is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, polyolefin copolymers and terpolymers, PVDF, PTFE resin, thermoplastic perfluoropolymers, polyamides, polyimides, polyethersulphones, polysulphones, polyarylsulphones, PVC, PET, polycarbonates, cellulose, cellulose esters, cellulose acetate, cellulose nitrate, polystyrenes, polyetherimides, acrylic polymers, methacrylic polymers, copolymers of acrylic or methacrylic polymers, epoxies, epoxy filled materials, polyurethanes and blends of any of the above.

22) (Canceled)

23) (Canceled)

24) (Canceled)

25) (Currently amended) A patterned porous filtration structure comprising one or more layers of a porous membrane, each layer of the porous membrane having one or more porous areas and one or more non-porous areas formed therein wherein the one or more non-porous areas are comprised of collapsed and fused porous membrane of the one or more layers.

26) (Previously presented) The patterned structure of claim 25 wherein the one or more porous areas are more than one in number and are arranged in a manner so as to be separate and distinct from each other and separated from each other by the one or more non-porous areas.

27) (New) A patterned porous filtration structure comprising one or more layers of a porous membrane, each layer comprising one or more areas of porous material and one or more areas of non-porous

material wherein the non-porous areas comprise collapsed and fused material of said one or more porous membrane layers and wherein the non-porous material is formed of the porous material by a process comprising the steps of applying an energy selected from the group consisting of heat, pressure, softening and combinations thereof to the areas of the porous material in which the non-porous areas are desired in order to cause the porous material in the desired areas to collapse and become fused into the non-porous material.

28. (New) A patterned porous filtration structure comprising one or more layers of a porous membrane, each layer of the porous membrane having one or more porous areas and one or more non-porous areas formed therein wherein the one or more non-porous areas are comprised of collapsed and fused porous membrane of the one or more layers wherein the non-porous areas comprise collapsed and fused material of said one or more porous membrane layers and wherein the non-porous material is formed of the porous material by a process comprising the steps of applying an energy selected from the group consisting of heat, pressure, softening and combinations thereof to the areas of the porous material in which the non-porous areas are desired in order to cause the porous material in the desired areas to collapse and become fused into the non-porous material.